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Media Release

Illawarra chapter welcomes chance to introduce new CEO at May lunch

The Illawarra Chapter of the Property Council of Australia welcomes the appointment of Cairns City Council CEO David Farmer to the position of Wollongong City Council CEO and looks forward to the opportunities of working together to help this city reach its full potential.

The Property Council commends the councillors' appointment of Mr Farmer, a former Wollongong boy who was enthusiastic about the future growth of the city when approached to be a guest speaker at the Property Council's lunch on Friday, May 11.

"Our members wanted to invigorate the city with some big-picture thinking for its next luncheon and David Farmer's name came up because he has been part of the success of a seaside city which has grown phenomenally in the past decade," Illawarra Chapter Chair Quentin Dennis said.

"Mr Farmer has been a part of the revitalisation of a city and the successful operation of its independent economic organisation Advance Cairns and his thoughts will be of great interest, not just for our lunch but in his new role as council's CEO."

Mr Farmer was met recently by the delegation from Wollongong City Council's economic development mission to Queensland, which included representatives from the Illawarra Chapter of the Property Council, taking the entourage by golf buggy on a tour of Cairns' magnificent esplanade development.

He will be joined at the May 11 lunch by two panellists who will also offer some great insight into the revitalisation of winning cities.

Jones Lang LaSalle Regional Director Kathryn Matthews will speak about the theory behind winning cities and Patrick Partners Town Centre Consultant Mike Cullen will speak about the connection between urban design, economic drivers and successfully revitalised cities.

The panellists will present some of their thoughts before taking questions from lunch guests who attend the event at the City Beach Function Centre. This discussion will be moderated by the Property Council's NSW Executive Director Ken Morrison.

Mr Farmer's appointment came about after the resignation of current CEO Rod Oxley, who ends his council tenure at the end of May.

"The Property Council wishes Mr Oxley all the best in his future endeavours and thanks him for his encouragement and participation in events during the establishment of our chapter in the Illawarra," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Oxley's final contribution to the Property Council will be when he showcases the great opportunities to investors at a Wollongong City Council sponsored regional bus tour which begins with breakfast next Thursday morning.

Bookings for both these events at the City Beach Function Centre are open to any interested members of the public. Please call 90331900 for information on costs and registration.

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